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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1948

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BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

HEALTH COMMITTEE 1948-49

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR W. E. MARTIN.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR W. T. SMITH.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(Alderman S. E. Austin, J.P.)

ALDERMAN A. E. PETLEY.

„ P. TURNER.

„ THE REV. HARCOURT SAMUEL.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. BILLINGHAM.

„ F. BOWLER.

„ T. J. FOOT.

„ D. M. HUGHES.

„ J. MARTIN.

„ H. NEWBY.

„ F. J. ROGERS.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County School Medical Officer :

W. T. Donovan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Commenced 1.2.48)

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

E. Young, A.R.S.I., F.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector.

Sanitary Inspectors :

F. Brown, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.A. of Scotland.

C. H. Weller, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector.

Clerical Staff :

J. S. Robertson.

Miss S. P. Smith.

J. W. Newing (Temp.)

Staff transferred to Kent County Council on 5th July, 1948 :

H. M. Cargin, M.D., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer of Health.

Mrs. E. S. G. Bell, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's. Cert. R.S.I.

Miss E. O. Corns, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's. Cert. R.S.I.

Miss W. E. Carpenter, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss F. N. Everitt, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's. Cert., R.S.I.

Miss J. C. Dunn, Clerk.

R. W. Whitmore, Clerk.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the annual report for the year 1948. Dr. H. M. Cargin acted as Medical Officer of Health until I commenced duty on 1st February, 1948.

General Standard of Health.

The general standard of health in the Borough continued to be satisfactory. No notifications were received in respect of Diphtheria. Seven notifications of this disease were notified in 1947. An increase in the number of notified cases of Measles and Whooping Cough did, however, take place, but only one death was attributable to Measles.

Vital Statistics.

The Birth Rate for the Borough is 19.7 per 1,000 estimated population, as compared with 21.2 for the year 1947.

The Death Rate for the year is 12.8 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 13.9 for the previous year.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 25.6 per 1,000 live births, the corresponding figure for the country as a whole being 34.0.

Housing.

During the year a separate Housing Department was established under the control of a Housing Manager. A revised points scheme was introduced and a review of the existing applications undertaken. There were 993 live applications outstanding at the end of the year.

Food Hygiene.

In accordance with the Council's instructions, a review of the food premises owned by the Corporation was undertaken by officers of the Health Department. Considerable improvements have been carried out, involving in some instances, the provision of entirely new premises,

Transfer of Services.

As from 5th July, 1948, certain services and staff formerly under the control of the Corporation were transferred to the Kent County Council, which is now the responsible authority for the administration of services set out in Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946.

The assistance rendered by voluntary bodies in the town in connection with these services is appreciated by us all.

My gratitude to the Council for the interest shown in all matters affecting the health of the community, to officials of all other Departments of the Corporation for their co-operation, and to the entire staff of the Public Health Department for the assistance given me throughout the year is acknowledged.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. T. DONOVAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1949.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	4,778 acres
Population, estimated mid-year 1948	...	...	...	...	35,500
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books)	...	...	...	...	10,530
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£285,070
General Rate	...	...	...	...	21/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£1,075

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Details were included in the report for 1947 and remain unchanged.

METEOROLOGY.

Meteorological observations were carried on throughout the year, twice daily telegraphic reports and monthly returns were transmitted to the Meteorological Office, Air Ministry, and daily information was supplied to the Press.

The meteorological instruments are situated in Wellington Crescent. The following Table shows the total monthly sunshine and rainfall figures for 1948 :—

	Sunshine in hours	Rainfall in inches
January	34.1	2.24
February	75.2	0.88
March	168.3	0.63
April	210.7	0.78
May	231.7	1.30
June	164.8	2.10
July	177.9	1.60
August	147.2	3.20
September	178.4	2.21
October	129.8	1.10
November	96.5	1.90
December	69.6	1.40
Total	1,684.2	19.34

From the above it will be observed that the month of May had the greatest number of hours sunshine and the month of August the highest rainfall.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births : Legitimate	353	298	651
Illegitimate	22	29	51
Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			19.7
Stillbirths : Legitimate	9	4	13
Illegitimate	1	3	4
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			20.2
Deaths	231	224	455
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			12.8
Deaths from puerperal causes :	Deaths	Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
Puerperal sepsis	—		—
Other maternal causes	—		—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :			
Legitimate	10	7	17
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Death rate of Infants under one year of age:			
All infants per 1,000 live births			25.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...			26.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...			19.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			78
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			3
Deaths from Scarlet Fever (all ages)			Nil
ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE			0.11

TABLE 1.
CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Male	Female
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ..	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ..	4	9
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	3	—
8. Syphilitic diseases	4	1
9. Influenza	1	1
10. Measles	—	1
11. Acute Polio-myelitis and polio- encephalitis	—	—
12. Acute infective encephalitis	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M), uterus (F)	—	—
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..	3	6
15. Cancer of breast	11	3
16. Cancer of all other sites	—	7
17. Diabetes	26	22
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	1	5
19. Heart disease	26	28
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	70	75
21. Bronchitis	4	3
22. Pneumonia	25	8
23. Other respiratory diseases	3	5
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ..	3	2
25. Diarrhœa under 2 years	4	1
26. Appendicitis	1	2
27. Other digestive diseases	2	—
28. Nephritis	3	4
29. Puerperal and post abortive sepsis ..	6	7
30. Other maternal causes	—	—
31. Premature birth	—	—
32. Congenital malformation, birth in- juries, infantile diseases	5	3
33. Suicide	3	2
34. Road traffic accidents	5	5
35. Other violent causes	—	1
36. All other causes	7	1
	11	22
	231	224
	455	

TABLE 2.
BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS
DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1948.

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns inc. London	148 Smaller Towns. Resident Population 25,000-50,000 1931	London Administra- tive County
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
<i>Births:—</i>				
Live Births	17.9	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still Births	0.42	0.52	0.43	0.39
<i>Deaths:—</i>				
All causes	10.8	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paraty- phoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
<i>Notifications:—</i>				
Typhoid Fever... ..	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Measles	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rates per 1,000 live births				
<i>Deaths:—</i>				
All causes under 1 year of age	34	39	32	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.				
<i>Notifications:—</i>				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rates per million Women aged 15-44
Abortion with sepsis ...	0.11	9
Abortion without sépsis	0.05	4
Puerperal infections ...	0.13	
Other maternal causes	0.73	

TABLE 3.
AGE AT DEATH — ALL CASES 1947.

	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Over 65	Total
MALES ...	10	2	1	1	1	—	—	1	2	5	10	20	34	145	231
FEMALES ...	8	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	8	8	12	31	151	224

TABLE 4.

INFANTILE DEATHS 1948. TABLE SHOWING CAUSES AND AGE AT DEATH.

Cause	Age in weeks			Total under 1 month	Age in months					Total	
	0-1	1-2	2-3		3-4	1-2	2-3	3-6	6-9		9-12
Prematurity ...	8	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Convulsions ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Atelectasis ...	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Broncho-Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Heart Failure ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Marasmus ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lobar Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Hydrocephalus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total ...	9	1	—	2	12	—	2	3	1	—	18

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (i) The staff of the Public Health Department is incorporated at the beginning of this report together with a list of personnel transferred to the Kent County Council on 5th July, 1948.

(ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The arrangements in connection with Laboratory facilities remain unchanged.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

As from 5th July, 1948, the provision of an ambulance service has been the responsibility of the Kent County Council, under which two ambulances are stationed in Ramsgate.

(c) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The following table give particulars of the days and times of clinics held at the Health Centre which are provided by the Kent County Council :—

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

Minor Ailment Clinic	Mon.—Fri., 9—11 a.m.	} By appoint- ment.
Dental Clinic	Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 9—12	
	Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 2—4	
Orthopaedic Clinic	Mon—Fri., 9—12	
Ophthalmic Clinic	Mon., Thurs., 9 a.m.	

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

Infant Welfare Clinic	Mon., Wed., Fri., 2—4 p.m.
Ante and Post Natal Clinic	Thurs., 2—4 p.m.
Dental Clinic	Wed., 9—12, 2—4 p.m.
Ultra Violet Light Clinic	Tues. and Fri., 9 a.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic	Fri., 2.15 p.m.

Hospitals.

General.

Mr. L. W. Mitchell, Administrator of the Ramsgate General Hospital, has kindly supplied the following information :—

IN-PATIENTS :

Number admitted	...	...	...	2,198
Average length of stay of each patient				12.6 days

OUT-PATIENTS :

Casualty Department	3,821
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SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS :

Medical	217
Surgical	477
Gynaecological	305
Ophthalmic	424
Orthoptic	...	...	...	...	71
X-Ray	...	...	...	...	4,186
Aural	...	...	...	...	717
Electrical and massage	...	...	...	...	636
Ante-Natal	...	...	...	...	238
Dermatological	...	...	...	...	325
Urological	...	...	...	...	116
Neuropsychiatry	...	...	...	...	60
Orthopaedic	...	...	...	...	364
Dental (from 27.7.48)	...	...	...	...	18
Pathology	...	...	...	...	653

Infectious Disease Hospitals.

(a) SMALLPOX.

Under arrangements made previously with the Kent County Council, provision is made for the treatment of cases at Dislingbury Hospital. There were no cases during the year.

(b) OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospitalisation are admitted to the Haine Isolation Hospital, Ramsgate.

Maternity Hospitals.

There are no maternity hospitals in the Borough, but cases requiring hospitalisation are admitted, by arrangement with the Isle of Thanet Hospital Management Committee, to the Maternity Ward of Ramsgate Hospital.

2. Maternity and Child Welfare.

(i) (a) Notification of Births.

Seven hundred and seventy nine births were notified to the Department and the Kent County Council during the year, of which 18 were stillbirths. No difficulty was experienced with regard to notification.

(b) Infant Welfare Centres.

The particulars of children and mothers attending the Welfare Clinic during 1948 were as follows :—

Total number of children who first attended during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were :

Under one year of age	...	...	533
1—5 years of age	...	...	132

Total number of children who attended and who at the end of the year were :

Under one year of age	...	...	401
1—5 years of age	...	...	464

Total attendances by children :

Under one year of age	...	...	8,937
1—5 years of age	...	...	2,211

(c) Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

Ante-Natal Consultations :—

Number of women who attended for the first time	...	...	291
Number of women who attended	...	...	389
Total attendances	...	...	884

Post-Natal Consultations :—

Number of women who attended for the first time	...	...	21
Number of women who attended	...	...	22
Total attendances	...	...	23

(d) Dental Clinic.

Number of expectant and nursing mothers treated	...	...	71
Number of cases in which general anaesthetic for extraction was administered	...	...	36

Total teeth extracted	473
Teeth filled	48
Number of pre-school children treated ...	37
Temporary teeth extracted	62
Temporary teeth filled	8

(ii) Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children.

The arrangements for the institutional provision for expectant mothers as outlined in the report for 1947, remained unchanged. The comments then made with regard to the need for additional accommodation still hold good.

(iii) Health Visitors.

The following Table gives particulars of visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year:—

Number of infants under one year of age visited for first time	682
Total visits to infants under one year of age	2,722
Total visits to children 1—5 years ...	4,957
Number of expectant mothers visited ...	247
Total visits to expectant mothers ...	335

(iv) Orthopaedic Treatment.

Facilities are available at the Ramsgate General Hospital for advice and treatment of pre-school children suffering from orthopaedic defects. The arrangements for school children include, in addition to the above, advice and treatment under the Kent Education Committee's scheme at the Health Centre, Newington Road.

(v) Illegitimacy.

The percentage of total births illegitimate in 1948 was 7.6 as compared with 7.4 for the previous year.

Up to 5th July, 1948, the Authority accepted financial responsibility for admission to a suitable Home for an unmarried mother.

(vi) Domestic Help.

In common with other parts of the country, difficulty was experienced in the supply of suitable Domestic Helps, particularly during the summer season. The number of cases assisted during the year was 78.

(vii) Care of Premature Infants.

The arrangements for the care of premature infants continued throughout the year and are the same as described in previous reports.

Eight deaths, all under one month, were attributed to prematurity, of which 7 occurred in the Ramsgate General Hospital, and one in a hospital outside the Borough.

(viii) Puerperal Mortality.

No deaths were attributed to puerperal causes during the year.

(ix) Supply of Milk Foods, etc.

The arrangements for the supply of certain brands of dried milk from the Health Centre continued during the year. In addition, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice, etc., was distributed on behalf of the local Food Office.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

During the year there have been no changes in the water supply in the Borough from those described in previous reports.

(1) The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory with regard to quality and quantity.

(2) Bacteriological examinations of the raw and treated water are carried out. A total of 48 samples were submitted during 1948, for bacteriological and/or chemical examination, all of which were of the standard required for a public supply.

(3) The water of Ramsgate is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

(4) Action in respect of any form of contamination was not found necessary during the year.

(5) Approximately 10,530 dwellings, with an approximate population of 35,500 was supplied direct from the mains.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Copy of Report on Sample of Water taken on 16th December, 1948

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000.

Appearance	...	...	...	Clear
Colour	...	...	...	Green-blue
Smell	...	...	...	Normal
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	23.10
Phosphoric acid in Phosphates	...	...	...	None
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	1.20
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	...	None
Ammonia	...	...	...	None
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	0.0029
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	...	...	...	Trace only
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	...	...	...	0.026
Hardness before boiling (Total)	...	...	...	22.4
Hardness after boiling (Permanent)	...	...	...	2.5
Total solid matter	...	...	...	80.60
Microscopical examination of deposit	...	...	...	Slight and unimportant
Chlorine as Salt (Sodium Chloride)	...	...	...	38.07
Metallic Impregnation (Copper, Lead, Zinc)	...	...	...	None

Remarks.

The above results indicate water organically pure and free from sewage percolation.

The Microscopical examination calls for no adverse remarks.

The figure for "Chlorine in Chlorides," "Total Hardness" and "Total solid matter" are all rather lower than when last reported upon in September.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

The following information has been supplied by the Borough Surveyor.

"In April, 1948, loan sanction in the sum of £63,000 was given by the Ministry of Health for the construction of a new main trunk sewer to serve the Newington Housing Estate and Haine area. Work on this sewer is being carried out by direct labour and is proceeding well. Approximately one third of the work has been completed and it is hoped that the whole of the work will be finished by December, 1949. About five miles of drains and sewers were constructed by direct labour on Units 3, 4 and 5 of the Newington Estate."

The Council possess two modern Dennis Gully Emptiers, which are available for cesspool emptying on request.

3. Rivers and Streams.

There are no rivers or streams within the Borough.

4. Public Cleansing.

The question of refuse disposal still presents serious problems. The existing plant which was designed to deal with peak loads of 40 tons per day, has to deal with new record high level peak loads of over 70 tons per day. During 1948, the Ministry of Health approved in principle a scheme for adding two cells and a smoke trap to the existing plant. It is hoped that the work, which will be carried out during 1949, will improve matters in relation to the disposal of refuse. The total weight disposed of during 1948 was 15,054 tons, representing an increase of 54 tons as compared with 1947.

5. Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of 420 houses on the outskirts of the Borough, all houses are connected with the water carriage system. Of these 420 houses, 360 are connected to cesspools, 55 have pail closets, 2 have chemical closets and 3 have privies.

6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

During 1948, 6,002 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors. Information on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors, together with lists of notices served and result of such notices are included in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector which appears at the end of this report.

7. Shops Act, 1934.

Forty-seven visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors during the year. The premises were found to be satisfactory.

8. Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

The following tables give the work carried out in connection with the Factories Act, 1937 :—

TABLE 5.

INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	43	18	15	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	148	78	6	—
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	2	—	—
Total ..	203	98	21	—

TABLE 6.
CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	No of Cases in which defects were:—				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	8	8	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature..	1	1	—	1	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	1	1	—	1	—
Ineffective drainage to floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	4	4	—	2	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	12	11	—	6	—
(c) not separate for sexes..	3	3	—		—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	10	10	—	—	—
Total ..	39	38	—	10	—

TABLE 7.

Nature of Work.	Section 110.			Section 111.		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel { Making. etc. Cleaning and Washing	9	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—

9. Moveable Dwellings.

There are two licensed camping sites in the Borough, and these were subjected to periodic inspection throughout the year. A total of 39 inspections were made.

The attention of licensees was called to the need for confining the use of the sites to the type of vehicle and tents as set out in the licence.

10. Smoke Abatement.

It has not been necessary to take any action during the year with regard to nuisance arising from smoke.

11. Swimming Baths and Pools.

During the season, supervision of the general sanitary conditions, and the sampling of bath water was carried out at a privately owned bathing pool in the Borough open to the public. Nine samples were taken and submitted, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

There are no publicly owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in the Borough.

12. Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Particulars of the degree of infestation and action taken for the eradication of bed bugs are as follows :—

No. of houses found to be infested :

(a) Council houses	...	...	...	2
(b) Other houses	...	...	...	10

No. of houses disinfested :

(a) Council houses	...	...	...	2
(b) Other houses	...	...	...	10

Disinfestant smokes, sprays and powders have been employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs.

It is recommended that consideration for the establishment of a scheme for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses.

The work of disinfesting is carried out by the Local Authority and by contractors under the supervision of the Local Authority's officers.

13. Offensive Trades.

Six Marine Stores are registered in the Borough under the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907, and of these only two are registered as offensive trades under the Public Health Act, 1936, by virtue of dealing in both rags and bones.

The premises in each case have been kept in a satisfactory condition, but in one instance it was found necessary to caution the proprietor of an establishment who caused some nuisance of a temporary nature by burning unwanted rubber tyres.

14. Fish Fryers.

Twenty-three Fish Fryers are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act.

Periodic inspection of these premises has been carried out and without exception a high standard has been maintained.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

General details with regard to inspection of dwelling houses are submitted in the following tabular form :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	462
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,416
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	4
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	17
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	449

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	478
--	-----

3 Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	Nil
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice ...		12
(a) By owners		12
(b) By Local Authority ¹ in default of owners		Nil
(c) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made		Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders		Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made		1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit		Nil
(e) Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses included in Clearance Areas		3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of Clearance Area procedure		3

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

The position with regard to occupation of sub-let tenancies has improved somewhat during the year, but still continues to present certain unsatisfactory features.

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the following detailed information :—

Number of Properties erected during 1948 :

Traditional three bedroomed non-parlour type	202
Pre-fabricated bungalows	48
Total ...	<u>250</u>

Number of Properties in various states of erection
31st December, 1948 :

Houses—three bedroomed non-parlour type	74
Flats—two bedroomed non-parlour type ...	28
Total ...	<u>102</u>

FUTURE BUILDING PROGRAMME.

Further schemes are being prepared for the approval of the Ministry of Health.

REQUISITIONED PROPERTY.

All empty properties are investigated promptly and no less than 150 cases have been dealt with during the year ending 31st December, 1948. Although no properties were requisitioned, the continual investigation has educated owners and agents to expedite the occupation of premises.

HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

The Council established a Housing Department on the 3rd August, 1948, under the control of a Housing Manager.

HOUSING APPLICATIONS.

A revised Points Scheme was adopted by the Council and a revision of Housing Applications was completed in December. "Live Applications" now number 993.

Number of families and persons accommodated by the Housing Committee for the year ending 31st December, 1948 :

	Houses	Families	Persons
Council Houses ...	220	221	783
Pre-Fabricated Bun'lovs	54	54	158
Requisitioned Properties	5	5	16
Total ...	<u>279</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>957</u>

Number of Properties controlled by the Council :—

Pre-war schemes	...	...	...	583
Post-war schemes :				
Traditional Houses	...	...	...	312
Pre-Fabricated Bungalows	...	...	...	199
Requisitioned Properties	...	...	...	80
Houses purchased by the Council	...	...	...	13
				<hr/>
			Total	...
				<hr/>
				1,187
				<hr/>

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

A total of 282 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops during the year. No action was found necessary with regard to the condition of these premises which may be regarded as satisfactory.

REGISTRATIONS.

The following table gives the total number of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936-43 :—

Licences issued by Kent County Council :

To produce Tuberculin tested milk ...	...	7
To produce Accredited milk ...	...	1

Licences issued by Local Authority :

Tuberculin tested (Dealer and Bottling) ...	...	2
Tuberculin tested (Dealer only) ...	...	1
Pasteurised (Dealer) ...	...	4
Pasteurised (Supplementary) ...	...	1

MILK SAMPLING.

117 samples of milk were submitted for examination and the following table summarises the results :—

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin tested ...	6	—
Accredited ...	4	1

In addition, 106 samples of pasteurised and heat treated milk were taken with the following results :—

Class of milk	No. tested	Failed Phosphatase test	Failed Methylene Blue test
Pasteurised ...	58	2	4
Heat treated ...	48	7	3

Meat and Other Foods.

During 1948, 819 visits were made by Inspectors to shops, stalls and other premises where food is sold, prepared or stored

TABLE 8.
CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ..	1870	541	2253	5154	350
Number inspected	1870	541	2253	5154	350
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	6	13	73	20
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	850	209	8	555	47
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	45.45	39.74	0.93	12.84	19.14
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	17	28	9	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	214	211	1	—	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12.35	44.17	0.44	—	5.71

Total animals killed and inspected — 10,168

TABLE 9.
UN SOUND FOOD.

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
January		18	3	13	8
February	1	3	0	18	0
March	3	14	1	3	8
April	1	2	1	9	4
May	2	3	2	21	8
June		17	3	4	12
July	1	14	0	15	4
August	4	13	0	3	4
September	2	16	3	15	8
October	6	8	3	8	0
November	6	17	3	21	8
December	3	1	0	24	0
Total	35	12	0	18	0

TABLE 10.
TINNED GOODS, ETC.

			Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
January	...	...		5	2	9	0
February	...	...		16	0	15	4
March	...	...		10	3	19	4
April	...	...		9	2	11	4
May	...	...		7	1	1	8
June	...	...	1	2	3	4	0
July	...	...		6	0	3	8
August	...	...		9	3	18	12
September	...	...		19	2	13	8
October	...	...		5	1	15	4
November	...	...		7	0	2	10
December	...	...		12	2	22	0
Total	...	...	6	12	3	23	14

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

During the year 124 samples (88 formal and 36 informal) were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors and submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst.

TABLE 11.

Description of Sample	Formal	Informal
Baking Powder	...	1
Bronchial Tablets	...	1
Caraway Seeds	...	1
Catarrh Pastilles	...	1
*Cinnamon	...	1
Cooking Fat	2	1
*Custard Substitute	1	
Cough Mixture	...	3
Eucalyptus Oil	...	1
Flour—Self Raising	...	1
Flour—Soya	1	
*Flour—Barley	1	
*Fish Cakes	1	
*Ginger—Ground	1	
Herbs	...	3
*Ice Cream	2	1
*Junket Essence	...	1
*Ketchup Tomato	...	1
Malt—Chocolate	...	1
Malt Cup	...	1
*Milk	57	3
Olive Oil	...	3
Pepper (White)	...	1
*Potatoes (Chipped)	...	2
*Relish (Kent)	...	1
Salad Cream	...	1
Salad Dressing	...	2
Soft Drink	...	1
*Sausage Meat	14	
*Sweets	2	2
Sweetening Tablets	...	1
*Vinegar (Malt)	6	

Particulars of samples reported by the Public Analyst to be not genuine and action taken :—

One informal sample of milk No. 31 contained a strong taste of Chlorinos matter, probably from some detergent used in cleansing vessels. Supply traced to a milk producer who was advised as to the proper use of detergents.

One formal sample of Beef Sausage No. 34 contained only 38 per cent of meat. Proceedings resulted in a fine of £2 and £2 10s. 0d. costs.

The Public Analyst's reports on the 60 samples of milk taken during different months of the year, show the average to be above the minimum standard and in every case free from preservative.

The average figures are Fat 3.48, Non-Fatty Solids 8.89, Total Solids 12.37.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Preservatives etc. in Food Regulations).

The 97 samples of food marked * in the preceding table were also examined under the above Regulations and in no case was there any contamination.

Ice Cream

The following table gives particulars with regard to registration :

Manufacture and sale of ice cream	...	23
Storage and distribution	... ..	1
Sale of ice cream	... ..	117
Sale of pre-packed ice cream only	...	16
		<hr/>
		157
		<hr/>

A total of 139 visits to these premises were made during the year and 28 samples submitted for examination by the Methylene blue test. It is gratifying to report that those engaged in this trade in the Borough made every effort to maintain a satisfactory standard of hygiene in the manufacture, storage and distribution of this commodity.

Shellfish.

The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations are still in force, but the bulk of shellfish comes from outside the Borough.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified to the Department during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There has been no change during the year in the infectious diseases compulsorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health.

The total number of notifications received during 1948 was 796, as compared with 525 in 1947. Measles and Whooping Cough were responsible for the increase in the number of notifications.

TABLE 12.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Resident Deaths	AGE INCIDENCE.												
																Over 65
				0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65		
Scarlet Fever	...	12	11	—	—	—	1	1	6	3	—	1	—	—	—	
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles	...	589	13	1	57	61	75	62	304	11	1	3	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	...	161	2	—	26	41	17	15	41	1	—	2	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	...	19	—	8*	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	4	—	4	4	
Erysipelas	...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	2	2	
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	

* Includes all forms

Diphtheria.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during 1948, the corresponding number for the previous year being seven.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of sessions held during the year and the number of injections administered are shown in the following table:—

Number of sessions	48
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Number of children who completed the full course :

Under 5 years of age	435
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Over 5 years of age	173
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Number of re inforcing doses administered				376
---	--	--	--	-----

Cancer.

The number of deaths certified as being due to cancer was 78, 40 male and 38 female, as compared with a total of 55, 32 male and 33 female, in 1947.

Tuberculosis.

During 1948, formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of 39 cases of respiratory tuberculosis, and 7 non-respiratory cases.

In addition, 21 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the following sources:—

	Respiratory	Non-respiratory
Transfers from other areas	16	3
Restored to register	2	—

Cases of tuberculosis notified within the Borough are examined and treated at the Chest Clinic, South Eastern Road, Ramsgate.

TABLE 13.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—5 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5—15 ...	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	—
15—25 ...	4	6	2	1	1	1	1	—
25—35 ...	6	3	—	—	—	5	—	—
35—45 ...	—	6	—	1	1	2	—	—
45—55 ...	4	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
55—65 ...	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65 ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total ...	19	20	3	4	4	9	3	—

The number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1948 was :—

	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory	239	238	477
Non-respiratory	95	108	203
	<hr/> 334	<hr/> 346	<hr/> 680

Scabies.

The arrangements for the treatment of this disease continued throughout the year unchanged and the following cases were treated :—

Adult males	9
Adult females	14
Children	29

Venereal Diseases.

During the year, 88 new Ramsgate patients (59 male, 29 female) were treated at clinics provided by the Regional Hospital Board. A total of 1,010 attendances were made by Ramsgate patients to the clinics during 1948.

PORT HEALTH REPORT, 1948.

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, Article 17(5), the following report on the sanitary circumstances, sanitary administration and vital statistics are submitted for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

I. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT.

TABLE A.

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected	Number reported defective	No. of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number reported to Min. of Transport Surveyors	No. with I.D. on board
FOREIGN:							
Steamers	2	394	2	—	—	—	—
Motor*	172	2166	3	—	—	—	—
Sailing ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing ..	102	612	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign	276	3172	5	—	—	—	—
COASTWISE:							
Steamers	149	77960	—	—	—	—	—
Motor*	664	16757	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing ..	16	1026	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	829	95743	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign & Coastwise	1105	98915	5	—	—	—	—

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers

During 1947, the corresponding figures were :—

Total Foreign	Number 198	Tonnage 5,154
Total Coastwise ..	Number 753	Tonnage 48,817

II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.

(a) Passenger traffic during the year	...	Nil
(b) Cargo traffic :		
Imports from foreign ports	...	Timber
Imports from British ports	...	Timber, Coal, Wheat

III. WATER SUPPLY.

The course of supply is drawn from the town mains, both for the port and shipping entering the port. No Water Boats are in use.

IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS 1933 AND 1945.

The arrangements as detailed in previous reports remain unchanged.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from vessels	...	Nil
--	-----	-----

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness during voyage, but disposed of prior to arrival	Nil
--	-----	-----	-----

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

Periodic inspections and treatment is carried out by the Corporation Rodent Operators, of ships, wharves, stores, etc., in the vicinity of the port. During the year 88 visits were made for inspection and treatment, and 921 rats were destroyed.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

CLASSIFICATIONS OF NUISANCES.

Nationality of Vessel	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British ..	—	—	—	—
Other Nations ..	5	—	—	—

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

No food is imported into the port. The Pegwell Bay Shellfish Regulations are still in operation.

Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector for the year 1948

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting the following report detailing the duties carried out by the Sanitary staff during 1948.

Considerable attention has been given to the sanitary conditions of catering establishments, and it is gratifying to record the helpful co-operation of those concerned in carrying out any improvements required, and I consider the distribution of plaques, etc., issued under the hygiene scheme of the British Tourist and Holiday Board has been of considerable assistance.

The results of the provisional grading by the methylene blue test of ice cream has not been altogether satisfactory, and some modification would appear necessary.

I am still of the opinion that enforcement of a pre-packed article would go a long way to improve the safety of this commodity. During the year an up-to-date factory for the production of ice cream on a wholesale scale commenced operating in the Borough. Much of the product from this establishment is sold pre-packed and it is considered that this is one more step towards the ideal.

The two Ministry of Food slaughterhouses which supply meat to the Thanet towns have kept the staff busy, especially during the holiday season, and to effectually carry out the many important duties, an adequate staff is necessary.

I desire to record my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their assistance and to acknowledge my appreciation to the Medical Officer of Health and the staff of the Department for their loyal co-operation and efficient work during the year.

E. YOUNG,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE 14.

RECORD OF VISITS.

	Total
Accumulations	70
Animals, keeping of	21
Bakehouses	70
Camping Sites and Caravans	39
Cowsheds	14
Drainage	754
Drains Tested	89
Factories	98
Fish Fryers	46
Food Shops	473
Housing	669
Housing Acts	7
Houses let in lodgings	7
Ice Cream Vendors	139
Land Charges	13
Marine Stores, etc.	3
Milkshops and Dairies	268
Music and Dancing	11
Number inspected under Housing Act	17
Nursing Homes	2
Outworkers	7
Overcrowding	3
Public Health Acts and other Acts, Regulations	38
Rats and Mice	145
Infectious Diseases	36
Refuse receptacles	48
Repairs and subsequent revisits	1,416
Restaurants	230
Rooms measured	66
Schools	14
Shipping	5
Shops Act	47
Smoke Abatement	13
Slaughterhouses	619
Stables	10
Swimming Baths	3
Tuberculosis	82
Verminous premises	69
Water samples	39
Miscellaneous	302
Total	6,002

COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints received during the year was 1,024. These complaints must receive attention, thereby curtailing the full systematic inspection of other premises necessary under the Shops, Factories and Housing Acts, etc.

NOTICES SERVED ETC.

Preliminary notices served or letters written	...	363
Nuisances abated on verbal instructions	...	194
Statutory notices served	..	8
Statutory notices complied with	...	12

WORK DONE IN CONNECTION WITH DRAINAGE AND HOUSING.

TABLE 15.

					Total
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	14
Additional W.C.'s built	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools filled in	...	...	...	...	1
Chimney stacks and flues repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	41
Coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	26
External walls cement rendered	...	...	...	...	9
External walls repointed or repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Floors relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	114
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	31
Fresh air inlet valves fixed	...	...	...	...	3
Gully traps fixed	...	...	...	...	35
Houses at which drains were repaired	...	...	...	...	59
Houses rebuilt	...	...	...	...	2
Houses re-drained	...	...	...	...	19
Houses renovated	...	...	...	...	16
Inspection chambers built, new covers provided	...	...	...	...	26
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	...	3
New flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	49
New sinks and baths provided	...	...	...	...	84
Rain water pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	19
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	101
Rooms fumigated and cleansed for vermin	...	...	...	...	25
Sanitary bins provided	...	...	...	...	52
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	58
Sink waste pipes renewed and trapped	...	...	...	...	75
Soil and vent pipes fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	36
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	49
Urinals repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
W.C. pans fixed	..	...	...	...	193

Wallplaster and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	271
Walls treated with damp proofing material	...	...	...	41
Water supply pipes renewed	...	...	...	47
Windows made to open	...	...	...	37
Yards paved or existing paving repaired	...	...	...	27
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	229

DISINFESTATION OF PERSONS AND CLOTHING.

Two baths are available at the Disinfecting and Cleansing Station, Broad Street, for the use of verminous persons and patients suffering from scabies. As each person passed through the bathroom, their clothing and bedding, etc., was fumigated in the disinfecting plant adjoining.

DISINFECTION AND VERMINOUS PREMISES.

One hundred and fifteen rooms were disinfected after infectious diseases or on request.

Two hundred and eighty sets of bedding were fumigated in the steam disinfector after infectious diseases, or because of vermin or other causes.

As in previous years, numerous requests from householders for assistance in dealing with various classes of insects, i.e. bugs, wasps, ants, fleas, flies and beetles, were received and advice given regarding the use of various types of insecticides, either as a liquid, powder or as fumigators.

Any verminous bedding, clothing, etc., was fumigated in the steam disinfector.

Number of houses found to be infested :—

Council houses	...	...	...	5
Others	...	...	...	23

Number of premises disinfested :—

Council houses	...	...	...	5
Others	...	...	...	23

Disinfestation of premises other than Council houses is carried out by local builders under the supervision of this Department.

RODENT CONTROL.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919 (Infestation Order, 1943).

The methods of extermination employed are those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Division, and the Council receive 50 per cent of expenditure incurred subject to compliance with certain conditions.

The quarterly meetings of the Workable Area Committee were attended at which representatives from Local Authorities in East Kent discussed problems concerning rodent control.

Two full-time operators are engaged on this work, and the following is a summary of the work carried out during 1948 :—

Complaints of Rat and/ or Mice infestation	321
Complaints found by Rodent Operators ...	69
RATS :	
Visits and revisits to dwelling-houses ...	2,828
Visits and revisits to other premises ...	1,936
Number of rats estimated killed as per Ministry formula ...	6,916
Number of rats caught in traps ...	108
Number caught by other means ...	38
MICE :	
Premises cleared—Dwelling-houses ...	60
Other premises ...	11

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out by the Rodent Operators to the public sewers and it is estimated that 3,923 rats were destroyed.

Various properties under the control of the Local Authority, including the Royal Harbour, Refuse Destructor, Allotments, etc., were treated with satisfactory results.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Number on register :

Restaurants	...	...	...	94
Snack Bars and Tea Rooms	...	...	...	62
Hotel Restaurants	...	...	...	17

During the year 230 visits were made and appreciable progress has been made in improving the structural and hygienic standard of these premises, several of the cafes and restaurant kitchens having been reconstructed.

The Medical Officer of Health and Senior Sanitary Inspector submitted a joint report to the Council on the food premises controlled by the Council and dealt with the existence and/or adequacy of the following essentials for such premises :—

- Water supply, drainage, food storage.
- Washing facilities for utensils and staff.
- Sanitary accommodation, structure.

I wish to pay tribute to the helpful co-operation given by the Food Control Executive Officer to this Department, ensuring every applicant for a licence becoming aware of the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, Public Health and Shops Acts, before premises are licensed.

Food inspection, and the inspection of food premises, has been called the silent service. It is a service not generally appreciated because the more efficient the work is done, the less goes wrong.